

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDE-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01
INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04
USIA-06 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07
/095 W

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P R 171559Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6442
INFO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, SF, US
SUBJECT: PROPOSED CONTRACT BETWEEN ERDA AND SASOL

REF: STATE 303204,

1. DECISION ON WHETHER ERDA SHOULD ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH SASOL ON COAL GASIFICATION TECHNOLOGY MUST WEIGH IMPORTANCE OF THIS TECHNOLOGY TO OUR NATIONAL ENERGY REQUIREMENTS AGAINST POLITICAL COST OF ENTERING INTO SUCH AN AGREEMENT WITH THE SAG. SAG, WHITE COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS SECTOR WILL UNDOUBTEDLY WELCOME THE CONTRACT. FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION, SAG CAN BE EXPECTED TO GIVE AMPLE PUBLICITY TO AGREEMENT TO SHOW HOW ADVANCED SA IS IN THIS FIELD AND TO UNDERSCORE ITS LINKS TO THE US. GOVERNMENT OPERATED SABC RADIO AND TELEVISION SELDOM MISS OPPORTUNITY TO CAPITALIZE ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES TO IMPLY POLITICAL ACCEPTABILITY. BLACKS WHO OPPOSE THE GOVERNMENT, AND PARTICULARLY THE GROWING MILITANT YOUTH MOVEMENT, WILL LOOK UPON ANY AGREEMENT AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF CONTINUING USG COLLABORATION WITH SA REGIME. WE WOULD NOT EXPECT CONTRACT PER SE TO TRIGGER ANY SPECIFIC

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ANTI-US ACTION BUT IT WILL ADD TO BLACK MILITANTS' CONVICTION (HOWEVER ILLOGICAL) THAT USG NOT INTERESTED IN USING ITS LEVERAGE WITH SAG TO CHANGE ITS RACIAL POLICIES.

2. IF DECISION IS TO PROCEED WITH EFFORTS TO REACH CONTRACT, WE WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE FURTHER DETAILS CONCERNING NUMBERS

OF ERDA SPECIALISTS WHO WOULD BE COMING TO SA
AND LENGTH OF VISITS. SUGGEST SPECIALISTS BE INSTRUCTED TO
VISIT EMBASSY PRETORIA FOR BRIEFING ON FIRST ARRIVAL AND TO
CONTACT EMBASSY ON ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE FOR SUBSEQUENT VISITS.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: STATE
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